

HCS HB 223 & 231 -- HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

Subject to appropriation, this bill requires the Department of Higher Education to make available a nonrenewable advanced placement incentive grant of \$500 to any recipient of financial aid under the A+ Schools or Access Missouri programs if the recipient received a score of three or higher on two advanced placement examinations in mathematics or science while attending a Missouri public high school.

The Nursing Education Incentive Program is established within the Department of Higher Education to address nursing shortages. The State Board of Nursing within the Division of Professional Registration in the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration is authorized to provide funding for the program; and subject to appropriation, the Department of Higher Education will award grants to eligible higher education institutions accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association based on criteria to be determined by the board and the Department of Higher Education. Grant award amounts cannot exceed \$150,000, and no campus may receive more than one grant per year. An eligible institution must offer a nursing program that meets the predetermined category and area of need as established by the board and the Department of Higher Education based on data from sources specified in the bill.

The bill also repeals the provisions regarding an obsolete incentive grant program which focused on nontraditional nursing students and the provisions regarding the Nurse Training Incentive Fund.